

## Honor local snowstorm saviors with 'Golden Shovel'

People and Places | Jason Tomassini and Jeremy Arias

It was hard work shoveling out of the record snowfall that hit the region last month. Now as spring (hopefully) approaches, it's time for the Montgomery County Council to recognize residents deserving of the "Golden Shovel" award for going above and beyond the call of duty in helping neighbors clear ice and snow from sidewalks, driveways, walkways, etc.

Snow-shoveling maniacs, snowblower saviors, salt spreaders; let them trade in their bad backs and war stories for a real-life trophy by nominating individuals to Councilwoman Valerie Ervin (D-Dist. 5) of Silver Spring. Only residents from District 5, which includes the Wheaton, Kensington, Silver Spring, and Takoma Park areas, should be nominated and they should be residents who went out, did the work, and didn't ask for anything in return. If you know of anyone you would like to nominate, please send the information to Ervin's office via e-mail (councilmember.

ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov) or by phone at 240-777-7960.

With each nomination, please include (as much as possible): Name of the resident; address and/or phone number of the resident; reasons for nominating him or her; and your name, e-mail address and/or telephone number.

### Art party at Silver Spring International

Meet and greet local artists and help fund spring arts programs at Silver Spring International Middle School 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the school's Arts Night and Silent Auction at 313 Wayne Ave. in Silver Spring. The programs include the Shakespeare Theatre Company returning for a fifth year to work with 7th- and 8th-graders, an art club sponsored by Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, the third annual 8th-grade legacy mural and plans to create a large mural of a jaguar – the school's mascot – near the front of the school.

At the event you can meet the artists-in-residence, enjoy hands-on arts and crafts activities for all ages, and bid on items in the silent auction. Food will also be available and all in the community are welcome to attend.

### Congresswoman rallies Silver Spring around census

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (Dist. 4) of Fort Washington will host a workshop to inform Silver Spring residents about the 2010 census process and to encourage people to participate. The meeting will be held 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Silver Spring Library at 8901 Colesville Road in Silver Spring. Rep. Edwards will encourage community leaders and organizations to help spread the word about how the census will work.

#### Historic houses credit

for home repairs

If you own a historic home in Montgomery County you're well aware of the restrictions and high prices for making repairs, but what if your home was one of the hundreds countywide damaged by the recent snowstorms? Have no fear; Montgomery County Historic Preservation Tax Credits are available for repairs to roofs, gutters and other projects.

As long as the repairs will not alter the appearance of the historic home, homeowners with repairs exceeding \$1,000 are eligible to receive the credit, which will amount to 10 percent of the total expenses. Unused portions of the credit can be carried forward for as many as five years.

For additional information, including eligibility requirements and criteria, please call 301-563-3400 or visit [www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/instructions/taxcredit.shtm](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/instructions/taxcredit.shtm) for an application form.

#### Grant money

for gardening projects

The city of Takoma Park is offering a number of grants to plant gardens in public and quasi-public locations in the New Hampshire Avenue corridor to beautify the commercial district.

Interested green thumbs, garden gurus and other applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals and applications for funds to Paul Grenier by the end of March for projects to be completed by June.

To obtain additional information about the grants, please call Grenier at 301-891-7220 or visit the NewAve Web site, [www.thenewave.com](http://www.thenewave.com).

#### Book launch party for Silver Spring author

Join Passion for Learning Inc. to celebrate the release of "Invisible Lines" a new novel for ages 10 and up by award-winning author and Silver Spring resident Mary Amato. The book signing event will include door prizes and a reading from Amato. It will be held 3

p.m. to 5 p.m. March 13 at the ArtSpring Pyramid Atlantic Community Arts Store at 8519 Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring.

Amato will read from "Invisible Lines" and talk about what inspires her to write for kids. Proceeds from book sales will benefit Passion for Learning, Inc. and its after school Young Writers' Academies at five Silver Spring schools. For more information, call Cynthia Rubenstein at 301-562-6014 or e-mail her at [p4learning@aol.com](mailto:p4learning@aol.com).

Civil War, World War II mark history of Lyttonsville exhibit

An exhibit celebrating the history of the Lyttonsville community of Silver Spring, will be held through March 15 at the Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center at 2450 Lyttonsville Road in Silver Spring. The exhibit features Lyttonsville resident Charles Williams, a decorated World War II veteran, and other servicemen. The exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Before entering the U.S. Army in 1940 at age 21, Williams was an employee of the National Park College in Forest Glen, formally known as National Park Seminary.

He was a decorated soldier in the 366th Infantry Division, Company L, and was wounded in Italy.

Lyttonsville's namesake, Samuel Lytton, was a freed slave before the Civil War. Upon being deeded 68 acres by white landowner Leonard Johnson, Lytton founded the community of Lyttonsville, one of the first pre-Civil War African American communities in the state and country.

The exhibit also features the original deed, vintage photos, maps, news clippings, and other documents.

The event is free, for more information contact Charlotte Coffield, [cacoffield@aol.com](mailto:cacoffield@aol.com), or Patricia Tyson at [PatriciaTysnnn@aol.com](mailto:PatriciaTysnnn@aol.com).

Send Silver Spring news to Staff Writer Jason Tomassini and Takoma Park news to Staff Writer Jeremy Arias at The Gazette, 13501 Virginia Manor Road, Laurel, MD 20707. The fax line is 240-473-7501. Tomassini can be reached at 240-473-7559 or [jtomassini@gazette.net](mailto:jtomassini@gazette.net); Arias can be reached at 240-473-7564 or [jarias@gazette.net](mailto:jarias@gazette.net).

Adopt a Greyhound

While every human gets 15 minutes of fame and every dog has its day, it's nice to know that, in less than 5 minutes, you can ensure your lifelong fame in the eyes of an area Greyhound in need of adoption.

The Big Bad Woof pet supply store at 117 Carroll St. in Northwest Washington, D.C., will go to the dogs from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday as volunteers from the Greyhound

Welfare adoption group host a meet and greet between interested residents and some of the group's many dogs.

For additional information, please contact the welfare group by e-mail at [events@greyhoundwelfare.org](mailto:events@greyhoundwelfare.org).

Kick it old school

with Takoma Soccer

Registration for the spring season of Takoma Soccer is now open for boys and girls from nursery school through high school to strap on their cleats and burn some of the calories from a long winter stuck indoors.

The spring season, which runs from March 20 through mid-May, is the soccer league's 28th year and all the games are scheduled at local Silver Spring and Takoma Park fields and parks. Registration costs \$50 per player.

For more information or to register today, please visit the league's Web site, [www.takomasoccer.org](http://www.takomasoccer.org) or e-mail Howard Kohn at [kohn@erols.com](mailto:kohn@erols.com) or Andrew Partan at [asp@partan.com](mailto:asp@partan.com).

Take action at annual Silver Spring community event

Join hundreds of community members 7 to 9 p.m. today at the fourth-annual Silver Spring Action event, an opportunity to network across lines of differences, envision a thriving community and take steps for positive change. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 8777 Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring.

This year, in collaboration and partnership with the Silver Spring Regional Center and Silver Spring Town Center Inc., residents are invited to come together to re-imagine community space in Silver Spring and spark action around the creative use of space in downtown and beyond. The event is an opportunity to network and build awareness about issues in neighborhoods and institutions and find others to act for positive change. To learn more about the event, or to RSVP, contact Noelle Haile or call 301-495-3336.